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**Minutes of a Meeting of the Old Marston Parish Council  
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7 January 2003  
at the Mortimer Hall**

**Members Present**

Mr. C.W. Haynes Chairman  
Mrs. C. Stone Vice-chairman  
Mesdames Bradley, Cox and Nurse  
Messrs Agent, Batey, Cann, Macfarlane and Taylor  
The Clerk Mr. L.M. Garner in attendance  
City Councillors Mrs. M. Clarkson and Mr. R. Darke  
The Chairman welcomed Mr. D. Manson, the auditor to the meeting to report on the audit and to observe the budget procedures.

**Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Tiwari and Mr. Bartleet

**Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 December 2003 were confirmed and signed.

**Matters Arising**

It was noted that before an item could be considered in committee a formal resolution must be passed first

**North East Area Committee**

Mr. Darke reported on the planning issues relating to the Government Offices Site. As outline consent had previously been given for academic developments on the Marston Road frontage the applications had been re-visited and approved subject to Thames Water giving its consent for connection to its sewerage system. The refusal of an office building for rent was upheld.

**Audit**

Mr. Manson reported that he had received and examined all the documents and background information pertinent to Audit of the Council's activities in 2001/2002. He was pleased to report that he had found all in order and he was able to certify the Audit Statement accordingly.

**Estimates for 2003/4**

The Clerk's statement of the likely out turn at 31 March 2003, allowing for the payment of commitments and the funding of outstanding tasks yet to be ordered, showed a reserve of £44,000.

In 2003/4:

Routine expenditure would be about	£23,000
And it was agreed to provide at Boult's Lane safety surfaces to the amusements	£10,500
And a dog fence	£4,500
And an extended surface to the basket ball area at Mortimer Site	£5,000
Possible election costs (Mr. Darke said that there was a possibility of a grant from the City Council towards this)	£1,000
A total proposed expenditure for the year of	£44,000

It was decided to increase last year's precept by 5% to £32,000 and to fund the balance from the reserve

**Correspondence**

The following were noted:  
Old Marston Mill Lane Allotments Association, AGM minutes and accounts  
Letters of thanks for grants

**Planning**

**Applications**

The following were considered:

C Haynes

R/o 32 Mill Lane – new house – no comment  
41 Oxford Road – solar heating panels – no comment (dealt with between meetings)

Decisions

The following were reported:  
Adj. 71 Oxford Road – new house- approved  
53 Elms Drive – conservatory - approved

Other Matters

A letter from the Building Control Surveyor stated that conversions into flats, after June 1992, were required to comply with Building Regulations. It was decided to seek confirmation that conversions in the Parish since that date complied.  
It was decided to invite the newly appointed Business Manager of the City Planning Services to a future meeting  
The first amendments to the Draft Local Plan would be published on 20 January 2003. The Clerk would obtain a copy

Accounts

The following accounts were passed for payment

		£
L.M. Garner	Back pay April – December 2002	213.30
Butterworths	New edition of “Local Council Administration”	37.60
Old Marston Residents’ Assn.	Replacement of damaged cheque	50.00

Recreation Ground

The City tree specialist recommended that the tree whose roots had given way on the Boult Lane Site should be removed rather than pollarded, as the roots were unlikely to regain their strength. It was decided to remove the tree at a cost of £170 by Mr. Ward.  
The Chairman’s offer to fund a replacement was accepted gratefully.  
The estimate for a new plaque for the vandalised seat would be £31.  
Mrs. Clarkson said she would make further approaches to secure agreement that the additional land adj. Marsh Lane should be available at a peppercorn rent.

Highways

It was decided to report  
The water leak outside 38 Oxford Road  
Potholes Oxford Road and Elsfield Road  
Poor road drainage at Oxsrade, Boult Lane and Oxford Road and the brook  
Further damage to the subway lights.  
Puddles caused by the provision of Tactiles at either corner of Elms Drive with Cherwell Drive  
A reply was received from the County Council’s Rights of Way Officer concerning the condition of the Footpath No.5 being between Elsfield Road and the eastern end of the Burial Ground and the Allotments. He recommended that gates rather than stiles should be possible at either end should be provided with a grant of 50% of the costs of a gate (£73 - £102 for a kissing gate).  
Enquiries would be made as to the cost to the Council.

Burial Ground

Ms. Bradley asked that the draft cover to the new register should be amended to include “Elsfield Road”

Allotments

The Clerk confirmed that the Agreement had been concluded

Dates of Future Meetings

4 February 2003, Annual Parish Meeting to precede the Council Meeting on 1 April 2003

*CM*